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March 29, 1979

Mr. Lyell C. Dawes  
Director, ISI Press  
325 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Dawes:

The second review also is very helpful. It reminds me that scientists sometimes really do dismiss an unfamiliar thesis out of hand without examining the evidence.

I remember how, when I gave my first ten minute paper on the mechanics of the larynx in 1955, before an audience of thousands, the appointed discussant spent twenty minutes citing older work and making mincemeat out of me to feed to his gored ox. He was J.J. Pressman, a leading otolaryngological surgeon and author of his day.

In the latest issue of *Current Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* (Winter, 1979, Part 1) W.H. Craib has an article in which he describes the obduracy of two illustrious scientists, Sir Thomas Lewis, and Lord Adrian (both of whom happen to have been teachers of mine). E.D. Adrian was a very distinguished neurophysiologist, President of the Royal Society, no less, and a lovely person, yet he apparently refused to give a hearing to Craib's unorthodox ideas on bioelectricity, which subsequently became part of the corpus of cardiology.

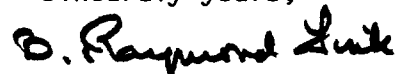
I am at a loss to understand how your second reviewer can compare me so confidently with Rashevsky without studying my work. Rashevsky was a theoretician. I am an experimentalist. The 'philosopher's stone' and 'large and beautiful generalizations about energy and life' bits seem to reveal the reviewer, highly regarded biologist and writer though he is, as having lost his taste for adventures of the mind and unfamiliar with current bioenergetics.

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I refer you to another article in the above mentioned issue of Current Perspectives. Its title is Thermodynamics and Evolution. Its main ideas are very similar to those outlined in my last letter to you. Wickens, the author, won an award for this essay.

Your suggestion about seeing several chapters of the proposed book is excellent. I will try to send them to you by the end of the summer. In the meantime I am greatly encouraged by your kind interest and advice, and hope you will continue to pull no punches in apprising me of reactions to my project. For another independent viewpoint you might like to consult Dr. Julius H. Comroe, Jr., Director of the Cardiovascular Research Institute in San Francisco and a most acute and witty writer.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. Raymond Fink". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "B." and last name "Fink" being the most legible parts.

B. Raymond Fink, M.D.  
Professor

BRF:gb